



2005

Comparison of 2014 LEAP Results for RSD-NO to All Louisiana Public School Districts

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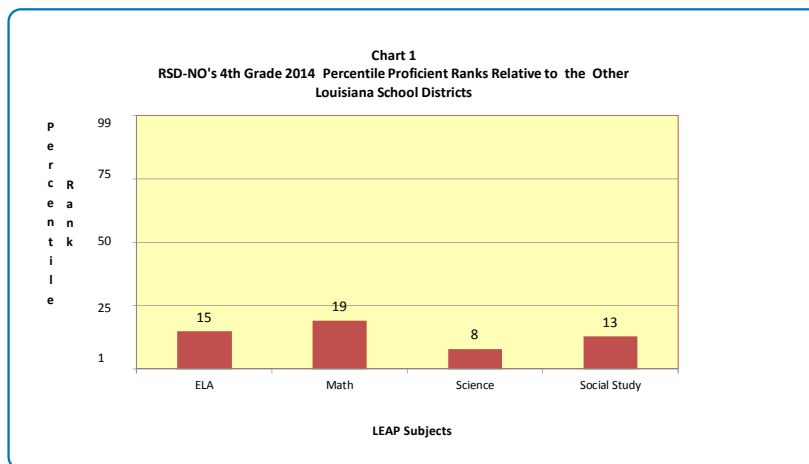


2014

This report analyzes the [2014 4th](#) and [2014 8th](#) LEAP summary test results for the Recovery District in New Orleans (RSD-NO). These 4th and 8th grade students have probably attended RSD-NO schools since the first grade.¹ Therefore, one would expect that they benefited considerably more from their instructional experiences in RSD-NO than their pre-Katrina counterparts. Research on Reforms (ROR) expected that, as a group, these students would not score at or near the bottom of the 2014 LEAP tests, but that did not happen.

This report presents the 2014 percent proficient scores and their equivalent percentile ranks for these grade levels in English Language Arts (ELA), mathematics, science and social studies.² Percent proficient, as used in this report, represents the percent of students scoring at or above Basic on the LEAP tests. The percentile rank refers to the percent of school districts whose percent proficient score is less than that for a given district's score. Percentile ranks range from 1 to 99. See Appendix A for descriptions the various statistical terms used in this report.

The results for 4th grade are presented in Chart 1. It shows that compared to other school districts in Louisiana, the RSD-NO's 4th graders have a percentile rank of 15 in ELA. Appendix B presents the distribution of percent proficient and equivalent percentile rank scores for each school district. It shows



that a percentile rank of 15 is equivalent to a percent proficient score of 62. This means that only 15% of the school districts have less than 62 percent of their students scoring at that percent proficient level in ELA.³ It is also appropriate to state that 85% of the school districts have percent

proficiency scores in ELA higher than the RSD-NO's 62 percent proficient.

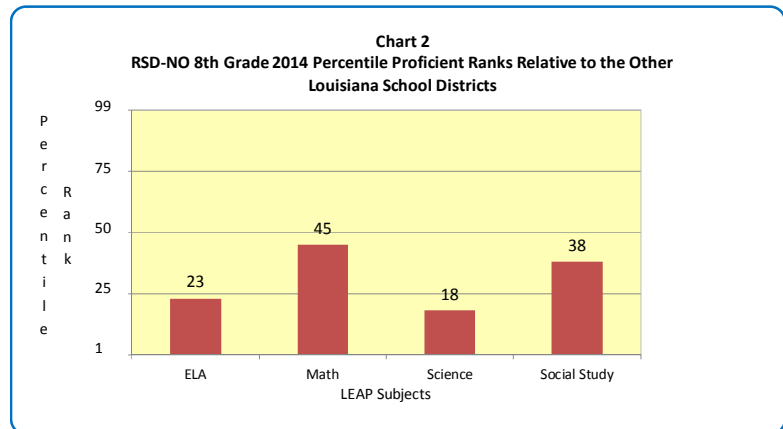
In mathematics, the RSD-NO 4th graders are performing at the 19th percentile. Appendix B shows that RSD-NO percentile rank of 19 is equivalent to a percent proficient score of 66. This means that only 19% of the school districts have a percent proficiency score that is less than 66. Similar interpretations can be made for science and social studies.

It can also be observed that the performance of the RSD-NO, in all of the subjects at the 4th grade level, is not only below the 50th percentile, i.e. median, but also below the 25th percentile, 1st quartile,

which represents the bottom part of the distribution of percent proficient scores. Performance in science is the lowest of the core subjects tested.

Chart 2 presents the results for 8th grade. It shows that compared to the other school districts in the state, the RSD-NO's 8th graders have a percentile rank of only 23 in ELA. Its percent proficiency score is 56 (See Appendix C). This means that only 23% of the other school districts in Louisiana have a percent proficient score less than 56.

In mathematics, the RSD-NO 8th graders have a percentile rank of 45 (See Appendix C). A percentile rank of 45 is equivalent to a percent proficient score of 65. This means that 45% of the other school districts have percent proficient scores less than 65. It can also be observed that the



performance of the RSD-NO is below the 25th percentile in each subject except for mathematics and social studies. Similar to 4th grade results, 8th grade performance in science is the lowest of the core subjects tested. Unpublished, preliminary analysis by ROR of RSD-NO's 2014 iLEAP results for the 3rd, 5th, 6th, and 7th graders show that their performance in science is also relatively worse than in the other iLEAP subjects.

The 8th grade performance in mathematics is particularly noteworthy since its percentile rank of 45 is approaching the 50th percentile which is the median percentile proficiency rank. What makes this performance interesting is that the 2014 transitional LEAP tests incorporated the [Common Core State Standards \(CCSS\)](#). These standards are designed to be more [rigorous](#) than the old accountability standards. Therefore, one would have expected the performance in mathematics to be much worse than that reported. Whether these mathematics results are valid or questionable is beyond the scope of this report at this time. One has to trust the validity of the LDOE's data until proven otherwise and give kudos to 8th grade teachers of mathematics.

The 4th and 8th grade results raise a simple question: Can the 2014 LEAP results presented in this paper be seriously considered as evidence that the RSD-NO is a success at the 4th and 8th grade levels? ROR believes that the results presented here suggest otherwise. It is generally accepted that the Orleans parish schools taken over by the RSD-NO as a group were performing the bottom achievement levels of LEAP and iLEAP. However, despite the "achievement gains" reported during the past nine years

by the ardent supporters of this "reform" movement, the RSD-NO still performs below the vast majority of the other districts at the 4th and 8th grades on LEAP. An excellent analysis of the LDOE's [aggregated 2014 LEAP/iLEAP results](#) that appeared in the [Louisiana Educator](#) also gives credence to this conclusion.

In 2002, the Louisiana State Department of Education (LDOE) set a new student achievement goal of 100% percent proficient in ELA and mathematics by the spring of 2014. Yet, none of Louisiana school districts achieved this unreasonable goal at the 4th and 8th grade levels.⁴ Now, the pendulum has swung back and the LDOE is starting all over again by raising the achievement bar and pursuing an even more unreasonable [goal for 2025](#), i.e., 100% achievement at the mastery level in ELA and mathematics by 2025. This new goal is predicated on the successful implementation of the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) and their associated new assessments, i.e., Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC). According to a [news release](#) by the LDOE's superintendent, John White, the new mastery goal and higher expectations are necessary since achievement at the basic level, "... does not correspond with community college or university success. While 69 percent of students hit this mark, for example, only 28 percent complete a university or community college degree..." This is an extremely important point. However, whether this is true or not is debatable since the LDOE did not present any empirical data or other references to the public to support this assertion.

As of this writing, the implementation of these new standards and assessments are stalled in an educational/political/economic/power [quagmire](#) among the governor, BESE, and LDOE. [BESE and the governor are suing](#) each other over the implementation of CCSS and PARCC. What an imbroglio this is for the parents, students, educators and the general public of Louisiana. It is too early to determine the far reaching consequences of this controversy, except to state that ROR believes it will wreak havoc on the Louisiana public educational system unless settled quickly. This reform movement has degenerated into a "[Louisiana Circus](#)," as acclaimed critic, Dianne Ravitch, has so aptly exclaimed.

Endnotes

¹ To accurately determine how many of the 2014 4th and 8th graders in the RSD-NO have been in the system since 1st grade, one would need to use student level data files to longitudinally tract these cohorts back to first grade. The LDOE has that data but has [refused to provide it to ROR](#).

² ROR computed percent proficient scores for each school district by adding the percent of students that scored at or above basic in each district. When the data were suppressed by the LDOE in any of those achievement categories, the percent proficient was computed by adding the percent of students scoring in Approaching Basic and Unsatisfactory and then subtracting that sum from 100. Using these two scenarios, ROR was able to generate percent proficient scores for all of the districts reported. The percentile rank associated with each proficient score was then generated using 2010 Microsoft Excel's [Percentrank.exc function](#). Percent proficient and percentile ranks were not computed for the combined results of the RSD-NO and RSD-EBR.

It should be emphasized that after the 2010 spring testing, the LDOE revised its reporting methods for reporting students scoring in each of the five LEAP achievement levels, i.e., Advanced, Mastery, Basic, Approaching Basic and Unsatisfactory. It now reports only percent of students scoring in each of the achievement category along with suppressed percentages and enrollment numbers. The LDOE suppresses percent and numbers by adding “≥” or “≤” in front of them. This tactic severely limits the scope of researchers or general public from re-configuring or analyzing the LDOE's data to answer their own specific questions. The reader is again referred to the LEAP reports for [4th](#) and [8th](#) referenced earlier for examples of this.

³ The LDOE reports whole rounded numbers for percent proficient. This may result in rounding errors when computing percentile ranks. These rounded percent proficient scores are the best available data from the LDOE at this time.

⁴ No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, Public Law 107-110, and Section 101

Appendix A

Definitions of Major Statistical Terms Used in Report

Number Proficient/Mastery: In LEAP and iLEAP, the proficient score represents the number of students scoring at Basic or above, i.e., Basic, Mastery or Advanced. Number Mastery is the number of students scoring at Mastery or above, i.e., Mastery or Advanced.

Percent Proficient/Mastery: In LEAP and iLEAP, the proficient score represents the number of students scoring Basic or above, i.e., Basic, Mastery or Advanced, divided by the total number of students tested. Percent Mastery is the number of students scoring at Mastery or above, i.e., Mastery or Advanced, divided by the number of students tested.

Percentile/Percentile Rank: A percentile rank indicates what percent of scores are lower than a given score in a distribution of scores. Percentile ranks and associated quartiles generally provide more information about district test scores in terms of how they compare to each other, than raw scores such as scaled scores, percent correct or percentages. It is important to emphasize that a [percentile rank](#) represents a type of measurement that should not be added or subtracted from one another. One can only assess whether a rank is higher or lower than another. Percentile rank definitions can vary. The definition of percentile rank used in this paper is that it represents the percentage of district proficient scores that fall below a given score.

Quartile: Percentile distributions range from 1 to 99. A [quartile](#) is "...One of the three points that divide a range of data or population into four equal parts. The first quartile (also called the lower quartile) is the number below which 25 percent of the bottom data falls. The second quartile (the median) divides the range in the middle and has 50 percent of the data are below it and 50% are above. The third quartile (also called the upper quartile) has 75 percent of the data below it and the top 25 percent of the data above it..."

Mean/Median/Mode: "...[Mean, median, and mode](#) are three kinds of averages. There are many "averages" in statistics, but these are ... the three most common... The mean is the average ... where you add up all the numbers and then divide by the number of numbers. The median is the middle value in the list of numbers... The 'mode' is the value that occurs most often..."

Appendix B

2014 Computed 4th Grade Percent Proficient and Equivalent Percentile Rank for LEAP Subjects

Note: the ELA Percent Proficient scores or ranked from high to low
(Number of School Districts = 71)

RSD-NO scores are highlighted in green

District Name	4th ELA Percent Proficient	4th ELA Percentile Proficient Rank	4th Math Percent Proficient	4th Math Percentile Proficient Rank	4th Science Percent Proficient	4th Science Percentile Proficient Rank	4th Social Studies Percent Proficient	4th Social Studies Percentile Proficient Rank
LOUISIANA STATEWIDE	76		76		68		70	
CENTRAL COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT	94	99	90	93	89	97	92	99
PLAQUEMINES PARISH	93	96	94	97	89	97	90	96
ZACHARY COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT	93	96	94	97	86	94	90	96
ST. CHARLES PARISH	90	93	91	96	82	86	86	93
VERNON PARISH	90	93	88	89	86	94	88	94
EVANGELINE PARISH	88	92	90	93	79	82	83	86
OPSB	86	88	89	92	82	86	84	89
ST. TAMMANY PARISH	86	88	88	89	83	89	84	89
LIVINGSTON PARISH	86	88	84	81	83	89	84	89
ASCENSION PARISH	84	83	84	81	76	74	81	82
OUACHITA PARISH	84	83	82	75	78	81	81	82
WEST FELICIANA PARISH	84	83	80	67	76	74	80	79
BOSSIER PARISH	83	81	84	81	76	74	78	75
CAMERON PARISH	83	81	82	75	70	61	78	75
ST. JAMES PARISH	82	76	87	88	80	83	79	78
ALLEN PARISH	82	76	82	75	83	89	83	86
VERMILION PARISH	82	76	74	50	76	74	76	69
WEST CARROLL PARISH	81	72	86	85	84	93	82	85
JEFFERSON DAVIS PARISH	81	72	77	56	77	79	75	67
LASALLE PARISH	81	72	72	39	75	71	76	69
ST. BERNARD PARISH	80	67	86	85	75	71	76	69
CALCASIEU PARISH	80	67	81	72	72	63	77	74
TERREBONNE PARISH	80	67	75	51	72	63	73	60
CITY OF MONROE SCHOOL DISTRICT	80	67	73	43	69	60	68	46
BEAUREGARD PARISH	79	64	79	61	74	68	80	79
LAFOURCHE PARISH	79	64	75	51	74	68	73	60
GRANT PARISH	78	61	80	67	80	83	74	65
CATAHOULA PARISH	78	61	70	35	67	47	73	60
ST. MARY PARISH	77	56	81	72	67	47	67	43
ST. MARTIN PARISH	77	56	79	61	68	56	69	50
WASHINGTON PARISH	77	56	79	61	64	42	66	38
IBERIA PARISH	77	56	78	58	66	46	69	50
SABINE PARISH	76	51	79	61	72	63	75	67
JEFFERSON PARISH	76	51	75	51	67	47	70	57
ST. LANDRY PARISH	76	51	66	19	63	35	66	38
RAPIDES PARISH	75	49	78	58	67	47	69	50
JACKSON PARISH	75	49	73	43	60	29	73	60
ACADIA PARISH	74	42	82	75	67	47	68	46
DESOTO PARISH	74	42	73	43	67	47	71	58
LAFAYETTE PARISH	74	42	72	39	68	56	69	50
ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH	74	42	72	39	60	29	64	35
BIENVILLE PARISH	74	42	70	35	68	56	66	38
TENSAS PARISH	73	38	80	67	53	14	56	15
WEBSTER PARISH	73	38	73	43	63	35	61	26
CALDWELL PARISH	73	38	69	29	72	63	67	43
IBERVILLE PARISH	72	32	80	67	63	35	66	38
ASSUMPTION PARISH	72	32	73	43	63	35	69	50
FRANKLIN PARISH	72	32	71	38	65	44	68	46
EAST FELICIANA PARISH	72	32	69	29	64	42	65	36
WINN PARISH	71	29	77	56	63	35	62	31
EAST BATON ROUGE	71	29	69	29	60	29	62	31
POINTE COUPEE PARISH	70	26	69	29	61	33	59	18
WEST BATON ROUGE PARISH	70	26	66	19	59	24	61	26
CADDO PARISH	69	25	66	19	59	24	59	18
CLAIBORNE PARISH	68	24	62	14	47	6	51	10
LINCOLN PARISH	67	22	67	25	57	19	59	18
MOREHOUSE PARISH	65	19	67	25	54	15	51	10
ST. HELENA PARISH	65	19	36	1	47	6	34	3
NATCHITOCHE PARISH	64	18	59	11	59	24	60	25
TANGIPAHOA PARISH	63	17	57	8	56	18	59	18
RSD — NEW ORLEANS	62	15	66	19	49	8	54	13
EAST CARROLL PARISH	60	13	65	18	43	4	63	33
CITY OF BOGALUSA SCHOOL DISTRICT	60	13	63	15	49	8	55	14
CONCORDIA PARISH	59	8	67	25	54	15	57	17
RED RIVER PARISH	59	8	57	8	59	24	50	8
CITY OF BAKER SCHOOL DISTRICT	59	8	56	6	49	8	45	6
AVOUELLES PARISH	58	7	63	15	57	19	59	18
UNION PARISH	56	6	59	11	57	19	61	26
RICHLAND PARISH	55	4	56	6	51	13	46	7
MADISON PARISH	44	3	50	3	33	3	38	4
RSD — EAST BATON ROUGE	41	1	54	4	23	1	19	1

Appendix C

2014 Computed 8th Grade Percent Proficient and Equivalent Percentile Rank for LEAP Subjects

Note: the ELA Percent Proficient scores or ranked from high to low
(Number of School Districts = 71)

RSD-NO scores are highlighted in green

District Name	8TH ELA Percent Proficient	8th ELA Percentile Proficient Rank	8th Math Percent Proficient	8th Math Percentile Proficient Rank	8th Science Percent Proficient	8th Science Percentile Proficient Rank	8th Social Studies Percent Proficient	8th Social Studies Percentile Proficient Rank
LOUISIANA STATEWIDE	66		65		63		66	
ZACHARY COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT	88	99	85	99	81	93	89	99
PLAQUEMINES PARISH	84	97	78	89	79	88	83	97
CENTRAL COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT	83	96	84	97	79	88	82	93
ST. CHARLES PARISH	81	94	78	89	81	93	78	86
ST. TAMMANY PARISH	80	93	79	92	81	93	82	93
ASCENSION PARISH	78	90	79	92	79	88	81	90
OPSB	78	90	76	85	73	76	75	83
LIVINGSTON PARISH	77	86	77	88	83	97	81	90
VERNON PARISH	77	86	82	96	78	83	79	88
OUACHITA PARISH	77	86	73	78	75	81	73	78
WEST FELICIANA PARISH	76	82	76	85	79	88	82	93
VERMILION PARISH	76	82	68	64	78	83	72	76
SABINE PARISH	76	82	67	58	69	65	67	63
LINCOLN PARISH	75	81	70	68	70	67	67	63
WEST BATON ROUGE PARISH	74	78	70	68	78	83	74	81
CAMERON PARISH	74	78	75	79	83	97	67	63
LASALLE PARISH	73	76	71	71	71	71	77	85
BOSSIER PARISH	72	75	71	71	70	67	73	78
JEFFERSON DAVIS PARISH	71	72	65	46	74	79	71	71
EVANGELINE PARISH	71	72	71	71	67	64	68	67
EAST CARROLL PARISH	70	71	75	79	75	81	74	81
CALCASIEU PARISH	69	67	67	58	71	71	71	71
ALLEN PARISH	69	67	62	43	70	67	71	71
CALDWELL PARISH	69	67	54	22	63	53	65	56
ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH	68	63	72	75	58	33	65	56
ASSUMPTION PARISH	68	63	72	75	62	49	63	44
BIENVILLE PARISH	68	63	79	92	60	40	60	33
ST. BERNARD PARISH	67	56	75	79	73	76	79	88
ST. MARY PARISH	67	56	66	57	65	58	68	67
DESOTO PARISH	67	56	65	46	66	61	66	58
IBERIA PARISH	67	56	59	33	61	43	66	58
LAFOURCHE PARISH	67	56	69	67	64	54	60	33
WEST CARROLL PARISH	66	50	58	32	72	74	71	71
ACADIA PARISH	66	50	65	46	64	54	64	50
WINN PARISH	66	50	61	39	56	28	64	50
TERREBONNE PARISH	66	50	65	46	64	54	62	42
WEBSTER PARISH	65	46	61	39	61	43	64	50
LAFAYETTE PARISH	65	46	65	46	61	43	63	44
ST. LANDRY PARISH	65	46	57	26	56	28	58	28
GRANT PARISH	63	42	67	58	65	58	68	67
BEAUREGARD PARISH	63	42	67	58	72	74	66	58
TANGIPAOHA PARISH	63	42	61	39	62	49	64	50
JACKSON PARISH	62	40	68	64	58	33	63	44
RAPIDES PARISH	61	36	59	33	61	43	61	38
ST. JAMES PARISH	61	36	75	79	59	38	61	38
WASHINGTON PARISH	61	36	65	46	57	32	58	28
ST. MARTIN PARISH	60	35	57	26	52	19	53	19
JEFFERSON PARISH	59	32	62	43	60	40	60	33
NATCHITOCHE PARISH	59	32	57	26	49	17	56	24
CATAHOULA PARISH	58	28	56	25	62	49	63	44
CADDO PARISH	58	28	51	17	53	22	55	22
FRANKLIN PARISH	58	28	57	26	55	26	54	21
RSD — NEW ORLEANS	56	24	65	46	50	18	61	38
EAST BATON ROUGE	56	24	59	33	53	22	58	28
POINTE COUPEE PARISH	56	24	65	46	58	33	56	24
UNION PARISH	54	19	52	18	66	61	58	28
IBERVILLE PARISH	54	19	54	22	56	28	52	17
EAST FELICIANA PARISH	54	19	60	38	48	15	44	11
CITY OF MONROE SCHOOL DISTRICT	52	18	48	15	52	19	62	42
RICHLAND PARISH	50	17	53	19	53	22	52	17
MOREHOUSE PARISH	49	15	46	13	47	14	44	11
CONCORDIA PARISH	48	14	53	19	59	38	57	26
CITY OF BAKER SCHOOL DISTRICT	46	13	37	3	28	4	33	3
CITY OF BOGALUSA SCHOOL DISTRICT	45	11	41	7	36	8	41	7
CLAIBORNE PARISH	41	8	41	7	40	11	47	14
TENSAS PARISH	41	8	35	1	26	1	41	7
RED RIVER PARISH	40	7	47	14	40	11	42	10
MADISON PARISH	38	4	42	11	32	6	49	15
AVOUELLES PARISH	38	4	41	7	37	10	37	6
RLA	32	3	38	6	27	6	30	4
RSD — EAST BATON ROUGE	33	3	40	6	32	6	35	4